

Seattle Fire Marshal's Office

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High-Rise Building Inspection Program

High-rise buildings present a unique risk to public safety because they often contain large concentrations of people above the reach of aerial ladders.

Beginning July 2017, the Seattle Fire Department (SFD) is implementing a new high-rise inspection program to promote fire and life safety. A small team of inspectors from the Fire Prevention Division will be dedicated to providing high quality, consistent inspections in high-rise buildings throughout Seattle. The program will:

- Help us better meet our mission of protecting occupant life and preserving property.
- Create a better partnership between SFD and building managers and engineers.
- Relieve the inspection burden on SFD's responding engine companies, particularly in downtown Seattle. These companies experience some of the highest run volumes in the City, and relieving them of their heavy high-rise inspection responsibilities will help improve emergency availability and response times.

The program will begin with a pilot from July 1 to December 31, 2017, in high-rise buildings in the downtown core, Pioneer Square, and South Lake Union. Here is a [list of buildings](#) that will be included in this pilot. Buildings were chosen for inclusion in the pilot based on their location as well as to achieve a mix of different occupancy types and number of stories. After the pilot ends in December 2017, the program is anticipated to be extended citywide and all high-rise buildings in Seattle will become part of the program.

Inspections will be scheduled in advance and conducted annually, with a goal of having inspections recur in the same month each year. There is an inspection fee of \$217 per hour. The fee will offset the cost of hiring dedicated firefighter-prevention inspectors in the Fire Prevention Division to support this program and customers.

SFD would like to ensure this new program works well for the building owners, engineers, and property managers who are our partners and we have prepared the [following resources](#).